

No: 11/92

Ref: EW/G92/08/29

Category: 1c

**Aircraft Type and Registration:** Auster 5 Alpha, G-APBE

**No & Type of Engines:** 1 Lycoming O-290-3 piston engine

**Year of Manufacture:** 1957

**Date & Time (UTC):** 19 August 1992 at 1130 hrs

**Location:** High Cross Airfield, Hertfordshire

**Type of Flight:** Private

**Persons on Board:** Crew - 1                      Passengers - None

**Injuries:** Crew - None                      Passengers - N/A

**Nature of Damage:** Broken propeller, spinner and engine cowling - leading edges and top surfaces of wings distorted - top of fin and rudder bent

**Commander's Licence:** Private Pilot's Licence

**Commander's Age:** 54 years

**Commander's Flying Experience:** 157 hours (of which 30 were on type)  
Last 90 days - 13 hours  
Last 28 days - 2 hours

**Information Source:** Aircraft Accident Report Form submitted by the pilot

The grass runway at High Cross Airfield is aligned 03/21 and measures 700 metres by 18 metres. Both edges of the runway are bounded by cultivated land. The pilot reports that, after a pleasure flight in the local area, he returned for a landing on runway 21. The approach was normal, however during the flare the aircraft started to drift to the right. Before the pilot could take corrective action the aircraft touched down on the cultivated soil, the landing gear dug in and the aircraft nosed over and came to rest inverted. The pilot's full restraint harness held during the accident sequence and, having made all switches safe, he vacated the aircraft without injury.

The weather at the time was fine with a light southeasterly breeze of between 3 and 5 kt.